

SOC 4.06.1 Hutchinson  
News

CIA 5-03.1 ✓

(orig under soc.)

July 1, 1976

The Editor  
Hutchinson News  
Hutchinson, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I have read with concern your editorial of June 14 entitled CIA Stooges. It reflects a basic misunderstanding both of what Mr. Bush said at the Overseas Press Club on May 3 and of this Agency's policy toward journalists.

For your use, I am sending along excerpts from Mr. Bush's recent address at the Cleveland City Club in which he referred to the Agency's policy. I am also enclosing a copy of the Agency statement of February 11 to which apparently you referred in your editorial.

Mr. Bush has never made the suggestion that reporters should participate in covert operations, as you claim. We believe, however, that any American citizen, whether journalist or farmer, has the right to volunteer information to his government without expectation of pay or favor; that, Sir, is basic.

I hope the facts will help clarify your interpretation of this aspect of the conduct of U.S. intelligence services.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director  
of Central Intelligence

kss  
Encs.

1 :  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

ANDREW —

Thanks —  
just the right  
touch —

GB

7-6-76

HUTCHINSON, KAN.

NEWS JUN 14 1976

D - 50,622

S - 51,841

## Editorial

# CIA stooges?

George Bush, the new CIA director, apparently stayed too long in China.

On at least one point—the function of news reporters—his view is parallel to that of the Communists.

Bush took office during the height of the CIA flaps, one of which centered over use of reporters as sources for the CIA. He announced that henceforth, the CIA won't pay for such information.

Last week, he said again—no pay, but how about giving it to us for free?

Bush seems to be laboring under some misapprehension, that the question here is money, not principle.

He told the annual gathering of the Overseas Press Club in New York that journalists should volunteer information to the agency.

To the credit of the Club, only a couple of boos and a few hisses greeted that remark. From the rest, there was "stunned silence," as one member described it.

The policy of UPI and AP, the major news services, and of any reputable news agency, is to forbid volunteering information for the CIA, FBI, or any other governmental intelligence or law enforcement agency. That is basic. If this principle is tampered with, then the public will have good reason to question the news report. Reporters can't become tools of government. In China, maybe; in a democracy, never. It also is ridiculous to suggest to a group that is founded on an open society that it should participate in covert operations.

Bush left that banquet quietly, in the middle of an awards program. It was just as well.

Executive Registry

76-8328

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aAndrew F.

Do you think it is worth answering this  
kind of editorial.. If so, please have  
someone flesh out the general type letter  
I have written..... (these make  
me sore)....

GB 6-23

To the Editor

Hutchison Kansas News.

Dear Sir:

I read your editorial CIA Stooges.

In my comment to the Overseas Press

Club I never made the suggestion that reporters should "participate in covert operations".

Because of my concern for the freedom of the Press I have changed long standing CIA policy.

The CIA will not enter into paid or contractual relationships with \_\_\_\_\_ members

of US etc etc...; however I do not feel

that if a reporter wants -to convey

some information to CIA that we should

preclude him from doing so. Many journalists

come to the CIA very openly for briefings

and discussions. Many journalists abroad contact  
CIA people abroad. ~~I--will-not-interfere-~~  
We will not in any way try to coerce  
journalists or anyone else into giving  
foreign intelligence to the CIA, but  
if such information is volunteered by  
any American citizen it will be welcomed.